



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **SWANQUARTER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

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# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **ESTABLISHING AUTHORITIES. . .**

- **The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 (45 Statute 1222( as amended 16 U.S.C. 715-715d) provided the basic authority and Emergency Conservation Work Fund and the Migratory Bird Fund provided the monies for the establishment of Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge on June 23, 1932**
- **The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 (45 Statute 1222( as amended 16 U.S.C. 715-715d) authorized the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to accept 142 acres from The Nature Conservancy on December 24, 1980. The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742-742j; 70 Statute 1119) as amended authorized the purchase of 768 acres from The Nature Conservancy on March 27, 1992.**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **Hunting Closure Authority**

**On July 18, 1935, Executive Order 2129 closed all refuge lands and 27,082.34 acres of adjacent waters to the hunting, taking or molesting of game birds. On September 5, 1977, Executive Order 2129 was amended (50 CFR 32.11) to allow hunting on specific tracts of the refuge.**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **Wilderness Designation**

**On October 19, 1976, Public Law 94-557 designated 8,784.93 acres of the refuge as Wilderness Area (The Wilderness Act of 1964 P.L. 88-577)**



# Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

## Purposes . . .

**“... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or any other management purpose, for migratory birds...”**

**“... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources...”**

**“... for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude...”**



# Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

## WILDLIFE SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN

**American black duck**  
**Lesser scaup**  
**Canvasback**  
**Redhead**  
**Surf scoter**  
**Seaside sparrow**  
**Sharp-tailed sparrow**  
**Brown-headed nuthatch**  
**Black-throated green warbler**  
**Black rail**  
**Yellow rail**  
**Clapper rail**  
**Forster's tern**  
**Peregrine falcon**  
**Bald eagle**  
**Osprey**

**Black bear**  
**Red wolf**

**Carolina pygmy rattlesnake**  
**American alligator**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **HABITAT DIVERSITY . . .**

**Coastal and estuarine habitats totalling 16,411 acres**

**brackish marsh (12,300 acres)**

**estuarine fringe loblolly pine forest (2,500 acres)**

**low pocosin (700 acres)**

**cypress-tupelo swamp forest (600 acres)**

**pine savanna (250 acres)**

**tidal cypress-gum swamp forest (50 acres)**

**administrative areas (11 acres)**



# Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

## HABITAT MANAGEMENT . . .

- prescribed burning of marshes and pine forestlands





# Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

## PEOPLE . . .

- Fishing
- Hunting (waterfowl)
- Environmental education
- Environmental interpretation
- Wildlife observation
- Wildlife photography

**plus other activities such as hiking  
and canoeing**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **RESOURCE PROTECTION**

**(including land acquisition and monitoring of permitted activities) . . .**

- **Natural Heritage Area**
- **Registered Heritage Area**
- **Anadromous Fish Spawning Area**
- **Outstanding Resource Waters**
- **Wilderness Area**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES . . .**

- **Hunting Violations**
- **Fishing/Boating Violations**
- **Dumping/Littering**
- **Poaching**
- **Reptile Collecting**
- **Trespass**
- **Drug and Alcohol Use**
- **Wildlife Disturbance**
- **Camping**
- **Loss of Aquatic Vegetation**

**(Law enforcement provided by one officer shared between Swanquarter and Mattamuskeet NWRs and two collateral duty officers at Mattamuskeet NWR)**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **SWANQUARTER NWR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **The Process to date . . .**

- Preplanning** **November 2000**
- Biological Reviews** **December 1999-  
December 2000**
- Public Involvement  
(see handouts)** **February 2001**
- Issues, Vision, Goals** **September 2001**
- Alternative/Objective  
Development** **September 2001**

# REFUGE VISION

## GOALS

## OBJECTIVES

Strategies

Projects

Strategies

Projects

Strategies

Projects

# **Vision Statement**

**The Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, located in Hyde County, North Carolina will be a vital wildlife refuge for the twenty first century. Its mission will be to preserve, restore, and enhance representative samples of existing and indigenous biological communities associated with the northern Pamlico Sound ecosystem for the benefit of endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, other wildlife, and native plants and the general public.**

# **GOALS**

## **WILDLIFE, FISH AND PLANT POPULATIONS:**

**HABITAT:** Protect and enhance terrestrial, wetland, and aquatic habitats associated with the northern Pamlico Sound ecosystem.

## **PUBLIC USE:**

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

**RESOURCE PROTECTION:** Protect refuge resources and wilderness areas by limiting impacts of human activity on and around the Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge and the Swanquarter Wilderness Area.



# **WILDLIFE ISSUES FROM SCOPING MEETINGS**

- **Capture and remove every red wolf in Hyde County**
- **Control the red wolf**
- **Develop a trapping program for furbearers, predators, beavers, and nutria**
- **Involve Hyde County residents in the Red Wolf Program**
- **Seek compromises in red wolf management**

# **HABITAT ISSUES FROM SCOPING MEETINGS**

- **Clean out and regularly maintain duck boxes**
- **Develop a program to do away with common reed**

# **HABITAT MANAGEMENT ISSUES FROM SCOPING MEETINGS**

- Clean out silted canals**
- Consider a 'refuge workday'**
- Fully staff the refuge**
- Include people in the planning process**
- Involve local citizens from each county in the planning process**
- Obtain more funding to manage land in possession**
- Separate management of Mattamuskeet and Swanquarter from Cedar Island**
- Utilize volunteers for maintenance, manpower and equipment**

# **PUBLIC USE ISSUES FROM SCOPING MEETINGS**

- **Continue public use activities other than fishing**
- **Continue providing access to Bell Island fishing pier**
- **Develop appropriate signage indicating where existing facilities are**
- **Develop other areas on the refuge for hunting**
- **Don't dig a ditch to catch mud around new boat ramps**
- **Expand public uses other than hunting and fishing**
- **Increase programs to attract more people**
- **Increase use of volunteers**
- **Open the refuge roads and trails to horseback riding**
- **Provide more ecotourism opportunities**
- **Recognize the importance of the refuge to Hyde County**

# **RESOURCE PROTECTION ISSUES FROM SCOPING MEETINGS**

- **Cooperate to obtain funding for improved wildlife management, rather than acquisition**
- **Cooperate with private landowners to manage land for wildlife**
- **Develop education program on other refuges in the area**
- **Do not acquire more land**
- **Do not consider corridors in refuge management**
- **Incorporate local culture and heritage of the area into refuge programs**
- **Maintain existing lands with current budget**
- **Re-evaluate existing surveys used to acquire private property**
- **Use advice from local experts when developing plans**
- **Use available acquisition budget to fund refuge maintenance deficits**
- **Use funds for better maintenance instead of acquisition**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **3 Management Alternatives Derived from Public Involvement and Strategic Planning . . .**

- 1. Existing conditions (status quo)**
- 2. Moderate program increases**
- 3. Optimum program increases**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **ALTERNATIVE 1: No Action – Status Quo**

**(1 FTE from Mattamuskeet NWR Dedicated to Swanquarter,  
9 FTE Staff Shared with Mattamuskeet and Cedar Island NWR)**

**Biological Program Focused on Waterfowl**

**Management Limited to Prescribed Burning Occasionally**

**Public Use Program Focused on Waterfowl Hunting and Bell  
Island Pier**

**No Special Events**

**No Facilities**

**Law Enforcement Officer Shared with Four Other Refuges,  
Collateral Duty Officer Shared with Two Other Refuges**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **ALTERNATIVE 2: Moderate Program Increases (7.5 FTE Dedicated Staff)**

**Biological Program Diversified to Waterfowl, Marsh Birds, Land Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians**

**Management Increased to Prescribed Burning Regularly and Marsh Enhancement**

**Public Use Program Diversified to All Priority Public Uses**

**Public Use Program Includes Waterfowl and Deer Hunting and Bell Island Pier**

**Host Special Events**

**Rest Room Facilities**

**Law Enforcement Officer Shared with Mattamuskeet NWR, Dedicated Collateral Duty Officers**





# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **ALTERNATIVE 3: Optimum Program Increases (10 FTE Dedicated Staff)**

**Biological Program Diversified to All Wildlife Species and Habitats**

**Management Increased Prescribed Burning Regularly**

**Public Use Program Diversified to All Priority Public Uses**

**Public Use Program Includes Waterfowl and Deer Hunting and Bell Island Pier**

**Host Special Events**

**Visitor Contact Station and Rest Room Facilities**

**Law Enforcement Officer Shared with Mattamuskeet NWR,  
Dedicated Collateral Duty Officers**



# **Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge**

## **Land Protection Alternatives**

**Level 1 – Protect 16,411 Acres Plus Up to 10% (1641 acres)**

**Level 2 – Protect 16,411 Acres plus Bell Island Unit (700 Acres) = 17,111 Acres**

**Level 3 – Protect 16,411 Acres, Bell Island Unit (700 Acres), and Pamlico County Unit (11,200 Acres) = 28,311 acres**

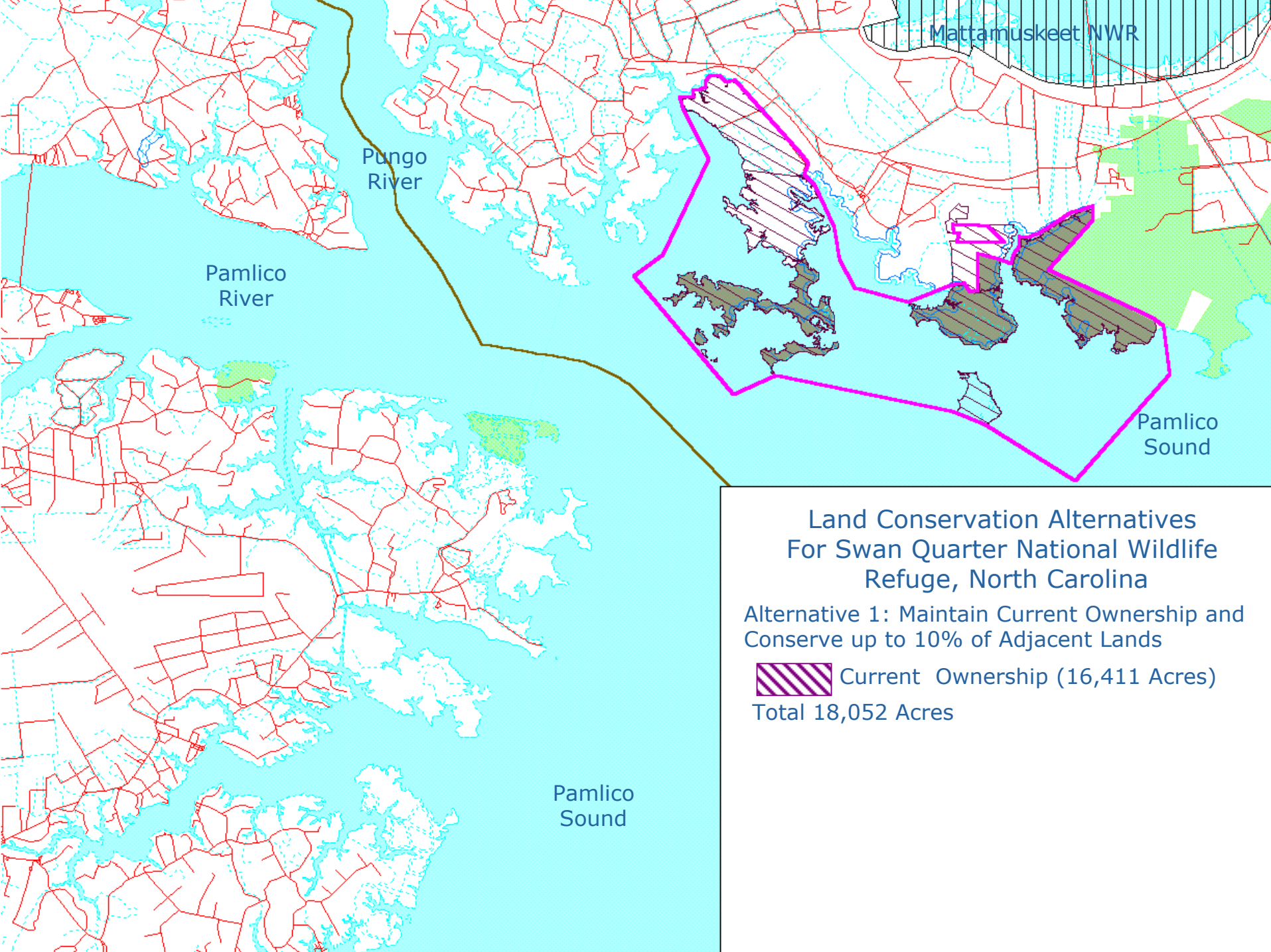
**Level 4 – Protect 16,411 Acres, Bell Island Unit (700 Acres), Pamlico County Unit (11,200 Acres), and Gullrock Gameland Unit (9,400 Acres) = 37,711 Acres**

## **Level of Activity in Land Newly Protected**

**Alternative 1 – Post Boundaries, Revise CCP as Land is Acquired**

**Alternative 2 – Post Boundaries, Inventory Habitat,  
Revise CCP as land is Acquired**

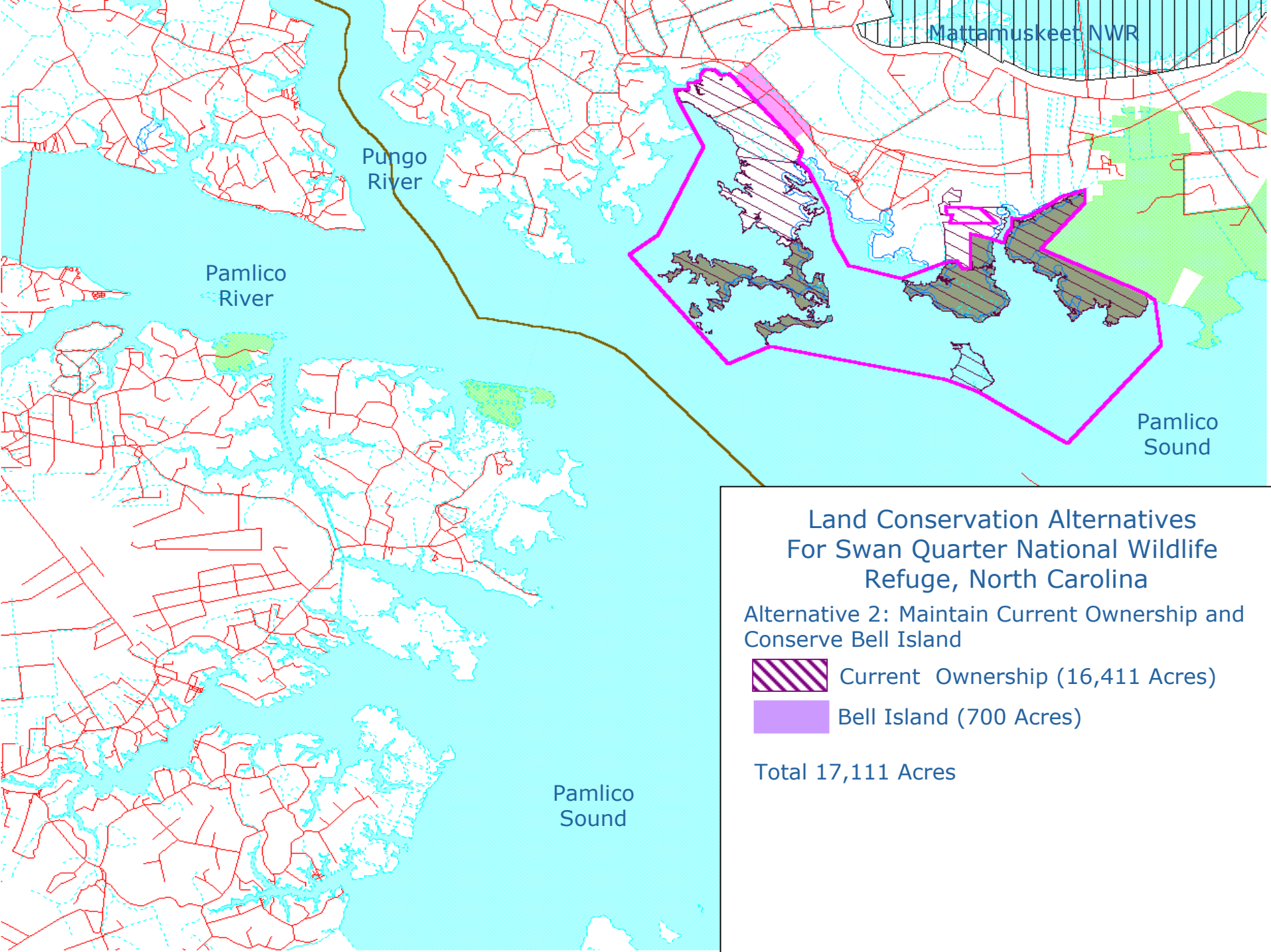
**Alternative 3 – Post Boundaries, Inventory Habitat, Manage Habitat  
Revise CCP as Land is Acquired**



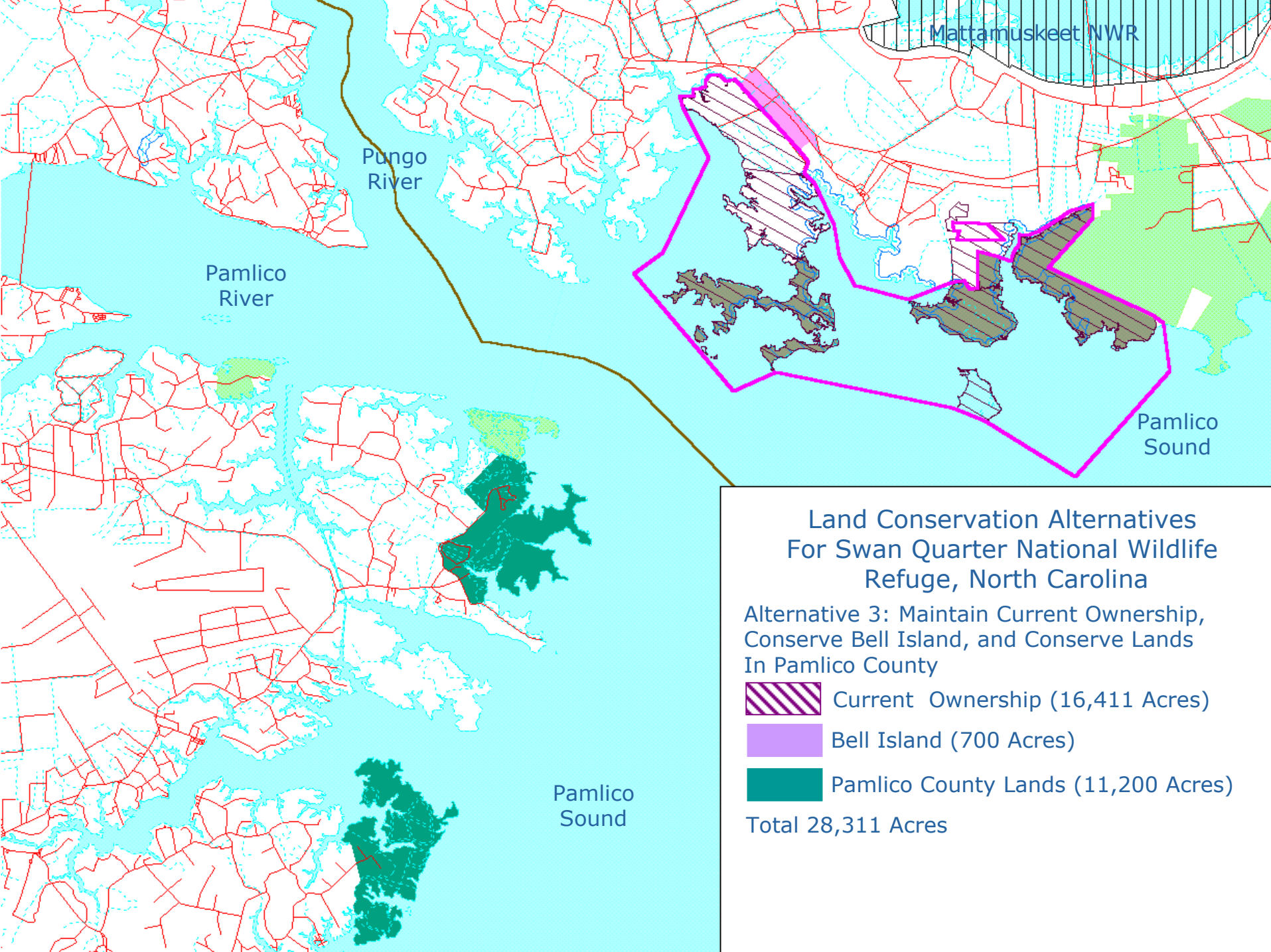
## Land Conservation Alternatives For Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina

Alternative 1: Maintain Current Ownership and  
Conserve up to 10% of Adjacent Lands

 Current Ownership (16,411 Acres)  
Total 18,052 Acres







### Land Conservation Alternatives For Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina

Alternative 3: Maintain Current Ownership,  
Conserve Bell Island, and Conserve Lands  
In Pamlico County

-  Current Ownership (16,411 Acres)
  -  Bell Island (700 Acres)
  -  Pamlico County Lands (11,200 Acres)
- Total 28,311 Acres

